



Rocky Mountain Eagle & United We Serve
Awards Ceremony



May 5, 2015
Lakewood Cultural Center Theatre
Lakewood, CO

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAGLE & UNITED WE SERVE

Employee Awards Ceremony

May 5, 2015

Program

10:30 am	Welcome	William Bonds, CFEB Chair
	National Anthem	
10:45	Karl Mecklenburg <i>Success is Overcoming Obstacles on the Way to Your Dreams</i>	
11:15	Awards Presentation	
12:15 pm	Reception	
1:00	Adjourn	

Karl Mecklenburg



Karl Mecklenburg rose from a college walk-on and twelfth round draft choice to an NFL career that included three Super Bowl and six Pro Bowl appearances. The former Bronco's captain spent his entire twelve year career in Denver and makes Colorado his home now. Mecklenburg was arguably the most versatile player in the NFL playing all seven defensive front positions often in the course of a single game. Karl was selected as the AFC Linebacker of the Year, AFC player of the Year, and since retiring from the NFL has been enshrined in the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. Mecklenburg has been a Pro Football Hall of Fame Semifinalist for each of the last three years.

Through the Karl Mecklenburg's REACH Foundation, Karl and his wife Kathi continue their charitable commitment to the children of Colorado. His latest book, *Heart of a Student Athlete; All Pro Advice for Competitors and Their Families*, offers advice to young athletes and their loved ones about what it really takes to be successful in sports and life. *Heart of a Student Athlete* is a Gold Mom's Choice Award Winner in the adult inspiration/motivation category and winner of the Mensa Sharp Writ Book Award in the young adult category.

As a member of the National Speakers Association, Karl is an author and motivational speaker inspiring long term positive change in teams and individuals. Mecklenburg's stories of teamwork and leadership are humorous and inspiring. He approaches his speaking career with the same intelligence, passion, and intensity that punctuated his great football career.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAGLE AWARDS

These annual awards are one of the most important forms of non-monetary recognition available to federal government employees within the State of Colorado, and they give us the opportunity to communicate to the public the outstanding achievements of federal employees who have dedicated their careers to public service. Many thanks to the nominators, nominees and our winners – for all you do.

2015 AWARD WINNERS

Kendra Rooney, *Department of Labor*

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Kendra Rooney is an energetic, hard-working and dedicated new employee of the U.S. Department of Labor, Division of Federal Employees' Compensation, who began her position as a Claims Examiner April 2014. Kendra is a new mom to beautiful baby girl Hannah and enjoys crossfit training. An active member of the Colorado Army National Guard for over 18 years, Kendra uses her experience as an Injury Compensation Program Administrator for the Guard to enhance her knowledge as a claims examiner. After her initial training, she took on her first caseload and from June 2, 2014 through December 31, 2014, achieved successful adjudication of over 315 claims – 100% of them within their set timeframes. Thanks to Ms. Rooney's hard work and dedication to deliver timely

decisions to injured workers, the Denver District Office met and exceeded its national operational plan adjudication goals for fiscal year 2014. Kendra's attention to detail and willingness to take on additional tasks not only reflects highly upon her as an employee, but represents the Denver District Office in a positive light among our constituents in the 7 states that they serve. Ms. Rooney displayed a remarkable example of teamwork and spirit, as she not only rose to become one of the top adjudicators in the office, but she reached out to her peers and offered assistance to help them adjudicate their claims, as well. Her work ethic displays her strong commitment to the mission of this agency, which is to help others in their time of need, both externally and internally.

Robert Sommers, *DOD NORAD US NORTHCOM*

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Bob Sommers was born and raised in Colorado Springs, CO. He graduated from Western State College in Gunnison, CO and was commissioned into the Marine Corps in May 1984. He served three years in Hawaii at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay as a communications officer and was released from active duty in Sept 1988. Bob worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative in Colorado until June of 1990 when he returned to active duty in the Marines. During the next 19 years, he served in various positions in Quantico, VA; Kansas City, MO; Camp Lejeune, NC; and the Pentagon. His last position during active duty was as Director of the Marine For Life Program, Wounded Warrior Regiment. He retired from the Marine Corps in June of 2009.

In Dec 2009, Bob became a contract employee with NORAD-USNORTHCOM as the Training and Education Representative for the Interagency Directorate at Peterson Air Force Base, CO. In Sept 2010 he shifted positions within the Interagency Directorate and became an analyst with the Private Sector / Nongovernmental Organizations Program Office. Bob and his wife Jaci have two sons and enjoy outdoor activities including mentoring Boy Scouts, hunting, fishing, cycling, backpacking, skiing (downhill and cross country), and hiking 14ers in Colorado's high country.

William Kepler, DOI Bureau of Reclamation

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



William F. Kepler, P.E., Ph.D has been with the Bureau of Reclamation for 28 years, eight of them as the Manager of the Materials Engineering and Research Laboratory (MERL). Prior to that, he worked as a technical expert in concrete technology. He has a M.S from Purdue University and earned his PhD in Civil Engineering while conducting state of the art research on nondestructive evaluation of concrete dams.

Dr. Kepler was honored with this award because of his significant contributions to Reclamation by improving and strengthening MERL. When he became Manager of MERL, the group had only 18 employees and a 67% billing rate. Through his vision, strong leadership, determination, and sound understanding of Reclamation's needs, he reshaped the group. MERL now has 31 employees with a 93% billing rate and is among the strongest performers in Reclamation's Technical Service Center.

This transformation is even more critical considering that the agency and industry as a whole is placing more emphasis on maintaining and sustaining our critical infrastructure.

William Bonds, OPM Western Management Development Center

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



William Bonds was selected as Group Director for OPM's Western Management Development Center and Custom Solutions Line of Business in January 2013. William joined federal service and OPM in 2006.

As Group Director, William oversees the Western Management Development Center's classrooms and team of program and account managers, customer support specialists and business operations personnel. The team is also responsible for the full life-cycle of single-agency, custom leadership and training programs. Activities include needs analysis, program design, program delivery, client relationship management and funding and procurement requirements.

Prior to joining OPM, Bonds was president of Bright Ideas Training and Development, a company he founded in 2000. Bright Ideas worked primarily with local and federal government organizations in the development of supervisors and customer service personnel.

He began his public service career as a Police Officer in the City of Plano, Texas in 1989. In 1996, William became the city's first training specialist and was promoted to Training and Development Manager in 1998.

An almost native Texan (he was born in New Jersey, but settled in the Lone Star state at the age of one), William studied communications at Southern Methodist University and earned his Master of Public Affairs degree at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Andrew Hamilton, DOD Air Force Personnel Center

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE



Andrew E. (Andy) Hamilton is assigned to the Reserve of the Air Force Selection Board Secretariat, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (HQ ARPC). Under the auspices of the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF), he serves as 1 of only 9 certified reserve promotion board recorders. In this capacity he ensures the parity and legal integrity of the operation of the board by providing wide-ranging personnel expertise and guidance in the conduct of over 200 boards annually, affecting over 7,000 officers through the grade of Colonel. Further, he provides post-board counseling to officers who have been non-selected, imparting crucial career-impacting guidance, records review and advisement to aid in future promotion opportunities.

Mr. Hamilton joined ARPC in 1987 and has served in a variety of supervisory and management roles across the personnel field. In his capacity as Chief, Master Records Management Division he was integral to the early development of the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) legacy conversion to an open enterprise platform. He later served as a Quality Assurance Evaluator on a \$26M records management and maintenance contract while overseeing the digital conversion of the center's 217,000 paper records and 13M microfiche images to the ARMS. Additionally, he was able to provide reserve records management expertise to the Air Force Personnel Center in the testing and development of the Personnel Records Display Application (PRDA). This led to his involvement in the testing and integration of ARPC's case management system known as Right Now Technologies (RNT), also serving as a training instructor to the organization in operations and use of the system. Andy joined the Selection Board Secretariat in May 2013 and provides board and customer support in the Policy and Procedures Division.

Robert Kapp, DHS Transportation Security Agency

IMPROVED FEDERAL IMAGE



Bob is the Customer Support Manager and the Stakeholder Manager and serves as the Chief Liaison for the Federal Security Director in Colorado with the traveling public, the local community, and a variety of consumer and special interest groups. Bob is also responsible for responding to issues from carriers, vendors and the airport. Bob provides direct support to the Federal Security Director.

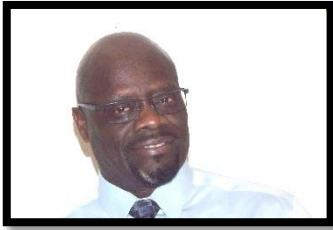
Bob began his TSA career in March of 2002 as a part of the first group of Mobile Screening Supervisors hired by TSA. He trained and was certified as a Lead Instructor for that group at the FAA Academy at the Mike Munroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, OK. Bob and his instructor group trained and certified the first-ever TSA officers as Baltimore International Airport was federalized in April of 2002.

Bob has over twenty years of experience in the Customer Support and Quality fields, including sixteen years with a large Colorado company where he served as Quality Manager, Customer Technical Support Manager, and Quality Engineer. Bob is a past member of the American Society for Quality and is a founding member of the Customer/Supplier and Quality Education divisions of that organization.

Bob is a regular participant in Quarterly Community Engagement Outreach meetings to connect with community leaders and present available federal programs and assistance. He has long-standing relationships with The Make-A-Wish foundation, the National Honor Flight Network, local congressional offices, local law enforcement agencies and military groups, as well as numerous federal agencies. He maintains an extensive network of national contacts and can arrange airport assistance at every airport in the country.

Willie Pratt, Jr., DOD US Army

SPECIAL PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT | INDIVIDUAL



Mr. Willie Pratt Jr. is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He joined the Active Duty Army in February 1984. After serving in the military for over twenty years as a 92Y (Supply Sergeant), Mr. Pratt was hired as a Department of the Army Civilian in the position of Supply Specialist, Mission Support Element (MSE) G4, at Fort Carson. His primary duties include: Logistical Support to all FORSCOM units stationed at Fort Carson, Equipment Asset Visibility, Mission Support Element Property Book Officer, Government Purchase Card Holder, and G4 Audit Readiness Liaison.

As the Mission Support Element Property Book Officer, Mr. Pratt manages over \$43M worth of government property. In addition, as the Equipment Asset Visibility Manager, he directs equipment alignment and redistribution for over \$6B worth of equipment. Mr. Pratt is a key leader in collaborating with Fort Carson sustainment agencies, military installations throughout the United States, and government agencies to ensure equipment requirements are met in support of US Army redesign directives. With limited resources, Willie directs the movement of over 26,000 pieces of equipment worth billions of dollars while maintaining a superior work ethic, demonstrated by his positive attitude, superb innovation, and advanced technical knowledge. He takes on three times the normal workload for his position to ensure timely coordination of equipment movement and utilizes the Army's new accountability/visibility system to provide transparency and review of all actions regarding the movement of the equipment.

P5I Team, DOD Air Force Personnel Center

Lt. Col. Bruce Winhold, SMSgt. Arlic Nunerley (ret), Sara Jenkins, Orlando Medina

SPECIAL PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT | TEAM



P5I is an acronym that stands for Policy, Plans, Program, Presentations and Process Improvement. Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Bruce Winhold, SMSgt. Arlic Nunerley (ret), Sara Jenkins, and Orlando Medina developed and executed a 5-year Strategic Plan that streamlined Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) assessment processes into an enduring roadmap for the future. The P5I team instilled a process improvement culture that culminated in eleven events and three policy changes that saved 2,000 annual man hours. They created organizational efficiencies by aligning policy, plans and Lean functions, and developed a

SharePoint based Internal Dashboard that linked metrics with execution OPRs, enabling easy tracking and updating of tasks and milestones. The team led AF Reserve field training for 6,000 personnel on command procedures, provided strategic vision policy initiatives, streamlined 46 duplicative areas with the Active Reserve program, and developed the Air Force Reserve Capital Management Strategy for 3.3M users. The team provided stellar leadership by driving organizational strategies that placed ARPC at the tip of the spear for critical impact.

UNITED WE SERVE AWARDS

The United We Serve awards recognize city, county, state, federal, and military government employees living and working in Colorado who have demonstrated sustained excellence in volunteer service leading to significant positive outcomes for their communities. The award recipients have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in recruiting, inspiring, and coordinating groups of volunteers, devoted substantial time and effort to the advancement of volunteerism, or shown a deep commitment of voluntary action to address community needs.

Debbe Meise, *City of Aurora*

CITY CATEGORY



Debbe Meise has been a member of the engineering staff of the City of Aurora Public Works department for over 30 years. Having this connection of working and living in Aurora for more than 3 decades has given her a strong connection to the people of her community. Debbe sees people that others do not see. In a busy community, she sees the homeless person looking for warmth. In a prosperous city, she sees a young mother trying to feed her children. And when Deb sees that person, she sees a person of great worth and dignity.

Debbe has spent her life helping the marginalized and overlooked of our culture. She has organized us to feed hundreds of homeless people every month for over 20 years. For the past 5 years, she and her crew have provided hot meals for all the kids and their families attending our Whiz Kids tutoring program.

But perhaps more important is the impact that Debbe has on those who know her. We are starting to notice people we had not noticed before. We are starting to treat the poor, the hungry, and the marginalized with respect and compassion. Debbe would not describe herself as a leader, but few individuals have the ability to lead us into being better people.

Jill Nore, *State of Colorado, Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice*

STATE CATEGORY



Jill Nore is the State Victims Assistance & Law Enforcement (State VALE) Administrator and Grant Manager at the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs. Jill has been working at the Division of Criminal Justice for the past 18 years.

In 2009, Jill joined Victim Outreach Inc. (VOI) as a volunteer Law Enforcement Victim Advocate. VOI is a non-profit organization that provides victim advocacy services to seven law enforcement agencies and one college campus in Jefferson County. Advocates respond to police calls where someone has been injured during the commission of a crime or has experienced a tragic event such as the death of a loved one. Jill has donated nearly 5,000 hours to VOI over the course of her 6 years with this organization.

In 2015, Jill decided to focus her volunteer work on working with children. After six years of working with VOI, Jill became a volunteer with Family Tree, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides life changing services that end child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness. Jill volunteers time each week as a Supervised Visitation Monitor. As a Visitation Monitor, Jill observes parents and children during their court-ordered visits to make sure that the visits are productive and appropriate. There are times when Jill has to intervene if the visit is not going well. During these visits, Jill documents the interactions between the parent and child(ren) and these notes are provided to the Court for its review.

SMSgt. Thomas Drake, DOD Air Force Space Command

FEDERAL CATEGORY



Senior Master Sergeant Thomas Drake is the Manager of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Operations at headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, CO. In his limited off-duty time, he volunteers with the Black Forest Fire Rescue Department as a Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician. In this capacity he responds to numerous emergency incidents and provides immediate, lifesaving assistance to the community, as well as helping educate the public about fire danger and prevention initiatives.

SMSgt Drake is an excellent role model within the community; he devotes countless hours to protecting the lives and property of those living in Black Forest and surrounding areas, and inspires others to serve their community. He hails from Eagle River Alaska, and is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, hunting and fishing.

THANK YOU

In addition to recognizing the outstanding achievements of government employees through the Rocky Mountain Eagle and United We Serve Award Programs, the Colorado Federal Executive Board Executive Committee is also dedicated to grooming the future government leaders of tomorrow. To that end, we invited members of Young Government Leaders (YGL) to join us in evaluating the nominations for these awards. We thank the following members of YGL for their assistance in evaluating the nominations and for their commitment to taking advantage of opportunities to volunteer for special assignments that give them the opportunity to work with and learn from senior government leaders.

Jarrod Breuer, DOI BOR
Stephanie Caldwell, DHS CIS
Jennifer Dietz, DOD DHA
Justin Fazzari, DOC EDA & YGL Vice President
Mike Guida, DOI ONRR & YGL President
Mason Roberts, DOI NPS

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Colorado Federal Executive Board
Denver Federal Center | Bldg 810 Room 5014 | Lakewood CO
303 202 4588 | www.colorado.feb.gov